

March 8, 2007

Akin Statement on House Armed Services Committee Hearing on Challenges and Obstacles Wounded and Injured Service Members Face during Recovery

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee released the following statement regarding today's full committee hearing on the challenges and obstacles wounded and injured service members face during recovery:

"I along with a vast majority of Americans was outraged by the stories brought to light by the Washington Post of injured veterans living in substandard outpatient housing and facing onerous bureaucratic administration of care during recovery from injuries received while serving their country in battle.

"These veterans deserve not only adequate care, but the best care available. During today's hearing it was further illustrated that veterans are sometimes confronted with an unresponsive bureaucracy that overwhelms veterans and their families as they attempt to recover. This is unacceptable and we must have a system that prioritizes the needs of our veterans and their families over bureaucratic concerns.

"As ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee I will be working with the House Armed Services Committee to draft appropriate legislation to improve care and hold the administration of the military medical system accountable for care given to our veterans. Beyond legislation, Congress must work to eliminate the bureaucratic impediments of the military medical system for our veterans."